



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2004

No. 71

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, great are the works of Your hands and of Your heart. Teach us to live to please You. As we labor, may our focus be on Your priorities and Your providence. During moments of confusion, help us to whisper a prayer for wisdom. Remind us to set our affection on the things above that will live beyond time into eternity.

Give our Senators and all who serve You on Capitol Hill the awareness of their accountability to You. Help us to remember that we are accountable for every idle word. Empower us to weigh our faults, to measure our words, and to labor in a way that will bring You pleasure. Increase Your presence in our lives and in this Chamber that Your power may be felt by all who need Your touch.

We pray today for those who mourn, particularly for the family of Bob Bean. Sustain them in their grief. We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the first 90 minutes will be devoted

to a period of morning business, the first 45 minutes controlled by the minority leader or his designee, with the final 45 minutes controlled by the majority side of the aisle. Following morning business, we will consider S. 15, the bioshield bill. Last night we reached agreement to allow for up to 2 hours of debate and a vote on passage of this important piece of legislation. We have been working on bringing the bioshield bill to the Senate floor for quite some time. I am pleased we are finally able to vote on passage on this measure.

Following passage of Project Bioshield, we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization. Pending is the Lautenberg amendment on sanctions. That amendment has been under review, and Members may well want to speak on that issue.

Yesterday Chairman WARNER indicated it was his desire to reach agreement for an amendment filing deadline. I hope that is possible. We should set a time certain for Senators to file their defense amendments to the bill so the two managers may begin to try to clear amendments on both sides of the aisle.

Finally, I remind everyone we will be scheduling votes on judicial nominations as we go forward, and rolcall votes will be anticipated throughout the day.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning business period be extended until 11:30 this morning with the additional time equally divided; further, that at 11:30 the Senate begin S. 15 as under the order.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRISONER ABUSE AT ABU GHRAIB

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, very briefly, I want to comment on what has been a real focus for the Senate and our various committees; that is, the revelations of abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. It has been a shock to the Nation and indeed to the world. The photographs we reviewed last week are appalling to all of us. America is clearly outraged at the scandal, ashamed, as we all should be. But it all centers on the fact that a very few have tarnished the reputations and the honor of a great many people representing the United States of America.

That is why this body, the Senate, has and must continue to act swiftly and fully investigate, to the best of our ability, the incidents of abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison and hold accountable those responsible and take bold corrective actions where necessary to ensure that those incidents never occur again.

This body has acted in a quick and deliberate manner to get to the bottom of this matter. Over the past 2 weeks, we have had a series of hearings. There is a hearing going on in Armed Services now, the second day the Senate Armed Services Committee has held a meeting. The Intelligence Committee held their hearings. The Appropriations Committee has continued to hear from the Defense Department and other agencies on the matter. Our committees are working aggressively in terms of oversight, taking very appropriate action. We have received hours of testimony from administration officials and senior military officers. Members have had the opportunity to review the photos that depict some of the offensive acts.

This morning, for the last hour, the Armed Services Committee has been holding a hearing. The witnesses include General Abizaid, Commander of Central Command; Lieutenant General Sanchez, Commander of the coalition

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S5729